

### III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-7 and 10-23 remain in the application. Claims 8, 9, and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 25 and 26 are new. Claims 1-7 and 10-23 have been amended.

2. The Brief Description of the Drawings has been amended to include a description of each of the figures.

3. Claims 3, 5, and 23 have been amended to overcome the objections.

4. Claims 4, 6, 7, 10, 12-14, 17 and 21 have been amended to overcome the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejections. Claims 1 and 23 recite "the optical signal" for which the phrase "an optical signal" in the preamble provides antecedent basis.

5. The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to comply with MPEP 608.01(b).

6. Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 19 to include all the limitations of claim 1.

7. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-7, 10-18, and 20-23 are not anticipated by Gambini (EP 1075063) under 35 USC 102(b).

Gambini fails to disclose or suggest pre-selecting one or more interference signals using a predetermined bandwidth and a filter characteristic that is asymmetric with respect to an

actual frequency of the optical signal, as substantially recited by claims 1, 22, and 23.

Gambini describes stabilizing an optical source using an optical beat between the output of the source and a reference with a different wavelength. However, Gambini has no disclosure related to preselection of interference signals using a predetermined bandwidth. Gambini also has no disclosure related to using an asymmetric filter characteristic with respect to the optical source frequency.

At least for this reason Gambini fails to anticipate independent claims 1, 22, and 23 and dependent claims 2-7, 10-18, 20, and 21.

8. Claims 25 and 26 are new and are directed to a method and a system for controlling an optical signal, including superimposing at least one optical reference signal and the optical signal to obtain at least one interference signal having an actual beat frequency, and pre-selecting one or more of the at least one interference signals using a predetermined bandwidth and a filter characteristic that is asymmetric with respect to an actual frequency of the optical signal, to determine a tuning direction when tuning the actual frequency of the optical signal.

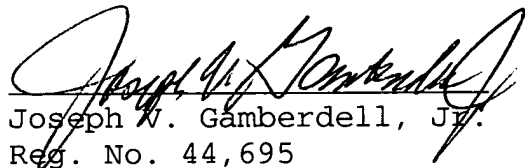
None of the prior art references made of record disclose or suggest these features.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable

reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joseph W. Gamberdell, Jr.  
Reg. No. 44,695

February 2, 2006  
Date

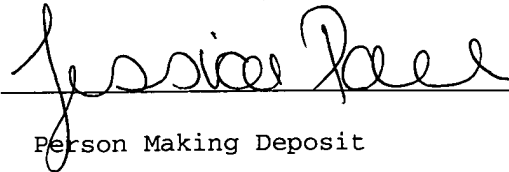
Perman & Green, LLP  
425 Post Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
(203) 259-1800  
Customer No.: 2512

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